tion of milk-powder in the country; and

(d) what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) With the objective of promoting exports of milk powder, its export has been decanalised with effect from 29.9.1994. Exports are now being allowed against quantitative ceilings which are placed at the disposal of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. Exports are permitted subject only to quality specifications and compulsory preshipment inspection by designated agencies.

(c) and (d) The Government has already delicensed the milk products industry under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 subject to locational parameters. Due to the liberalised policy of the Government, the production of milk powders including infant milk foods has increased from 1,65,000 tonnes in the year 1992 to 1,85,000 tonnes in the year 1993.

Open licencing of paddy shelling

819. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the liberalization policy of Government open licencing of shelling of paddy has been allowed;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All rice millers in the country are required to obtain a permit under Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958andRice-Milling Industry (Regulation & Licensing) Rules, 1959 before commencing milling operations.

Private and state sectors o set up EPZs

820. SHRI K. M. KHAN:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private and State sectors have been permitted to set up export procesing zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether prior to this liberalisation some Export processing zones were in existence;

(d) if so, the details thereof with their functions;

(e) the extent by which EPZ are likely to the help in the development of infrastructural facilities for industrial development and export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Government has recently decided to permit establishment of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) by the private/joint sector or State Governments with a view to involving the private and State sectors in the provision of infrastructural facilities for industrial development and exports. Policy, procedures and benefits in respect of units in EPZs would also apply in the case of EPZs developed by the private/joint sector or State Governments. EPZ promoters would have to fulfill the prescribed requirements of security as well as relevant customs laws and procedures, bear the custom bonding charges, comply with local industrial, labour or